

Town of Stratford

Town Meeting

12 March 2019

The business meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM on March 12, 2019 by Moderator Sayen. Moderator Sayen recognized our Veterans, paid & volunteer Election Officials, and led the voters in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Sayen went over the common-sense guidelines of his meeting, insisting on people keeping comments professional and refraining from personal attacks.

*Articles 1 & 14 will be printed on official ballots.

10:05 AM: Larry Ladd motions for **Article 15** to be moved to the beginning of Town Meeting to discuss the abolishment of the Planning Board.

Cindy Juergens seconds

Verbal aye/nay.

Motion passes.

Abolishment of the Planning Board is now discussed.

Larry Ladd discusses losing the Planning Board means losing the Master Plan as well.

Tim Brooks asks for an explanation as to why we would want to abolish the Planning Board.

Margaret Frizzell asks for the sponsor to speak.

Ted Burns discusses a Planning Board workshop where the audience was not allowed to speak.

Robin Heinrichs discusses issues with flood insurance and viability of her home without a Planning Board; If someone is not happy with the board member, then change the board members rather than abolish the Board altogether.

Rachel O'Meara discusses the actions and responsibilities of the Planning Board.

Tim Brooks references a previous issue that came up but was defeated, in the Town's favor, because of the Planning Board.

Jim Lee asks for hard data and for the pros and cons of abolishing a Planning Board instead of opinion and anecdotal evidence.

Tom "Otto" Whelan presents the N.H. Planning & Land Use Regulation book, 2018-2019 edition to be passed around.

Joe Heinrichs discusses lack of a plan from the abolitionists regarding losing the Planning Board.

Sam Cavasos asks to for the information that is being passed around to be summarized and read to the meeting as it would take too long for every person to read from the NHPLUR book.

Robin Heinrichs reads from the NHPLUR.

Otto Whelan discusses that abolishing the Planning Board is for back country owners to regain property rights and that they are currently not allowed to subdivide because of the Planning Board.

Mark McCulloch asks if Otto was denied a subdivision to which Otto replies it was hypothetical.

Vicki Delalla discusses the difficulty to get people to volunteer for any of the boards, let alone the Planning Board.

Wayne Hall recalls the flood of 1979, and states that we as a Town needs to start working together instead of individually.

Select-Board also discusses losing FEMA funds if the Planning Board is abolished.

Motioned to move on: Virginia Routhier

Seconds: Wayne Hall

Verbal Aye/Nay vote.

Motion Passes

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Motion made to move Article 15 back to end of Town Meeting: Larry Ladd
Seconded: Bona Ladd
Verbal Aye/Nay vote.
Motion Passes.

***Article 1:** To choose by non-partisan ballot the following Officers: 1 Selectman (3 years); 1 Town Treasurer (3 years); 1 Cemetery Trustee (3 years); 1 Library Trustee (3 years); 1 Town Auditor (1 year); 1 Trustee of Trust Funds (3 years).
Ballot vote.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$765,555 for the operating budget. This article does not include the cost of any other warrant article.
Motion made to accept article as read: Jamie Davis
Seconded: Clayton Macdonald
Discussion: Chucky Stinson asks why we are continuing to fund the police dept.
Mark McCulloch asks what it would take for proper police response for fire emergencies. FC Stinson responds. Wayne Hall discusses State Trooper logistics of coverage. Select-Board responds.
Verbal Aye/Nay vote.
Article 2 passed as read.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,100 to be added to the previously established Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)
Motion made to accept article as read: Jamie Davis
Seconded by: Clayton Macdonald
Discussion: Larry Ladd asks for reasoning behind reduction from previous year. Chucky Stinson responds
Verbal Aye/Nay vote.
Article 3 passed as read.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be added to the previously established Highway and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)
Motion made to accept article as read: Charlie Goulet
Seconded: Jamie Davis
Discussion: Selectman Goulet discusses the purpose of this fund.
Verbal Aye/Nay vote.
Article 4 passed as read.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be added to the previously established Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)
Motion made to accept article as read: Jamie Davis
Seconded: Charlie Goulet

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Discussion: none
Verbal Aye/Nay vote.
Article 5 passed as read.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,000** to be added to the previously established Recycling Capital Reserve Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

Motion made to accept article as read: Charlie Goulet
Seconded: Clayton Macdonald
Discussion: Charlie Goulet discusses the origin and need for this fund.
Verbal Aye/Nay vote.
Article 6 passed as read.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,000** to be added to the previously established 250th Celebration Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of funding the 250th anniversary celebration to be held in 2023. (Board Recommends)

Motion made to accept article as read: clayton
Seconded: Jamie Davis
Discussion: Clayton Macdonald talks about the importance, timeline, and meeting times of the Anniversary committee. Margaret Frizzell asks for current balance. Select-Board responds \$3,500.
Verbal Aye/Nay vote.
Article 7 passed as read.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$7,500** to be added to the previously established Government Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. (Board Recommends)

Motion made to accept article as read: Charlie
Seconded: Jamie Davis
Discussion: Charlie Goulet discusses origin and balance of this fund. Wayne Labatte discusses the Salt Shed.
Verbal Aye/Nay vote.
Article 8 passes as read.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,000** to be added to the previously established Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Motion made to accept article as read: Charlie Goulet
Seconded: Clayton Macdonald
Discussion: Tim Brooks states he wants this money applied to FD instead of a non-active PD. Jim Lee asks about state of the current cruiser and its viability and the current balance of the fund. Clayton Macdonald responds. Jim Lee asks who/when makes the decision to sell the current cruiser. Clayton Macdonald responds
Verbal Aye/Nay vote.
Article 9 passed as read.

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Article 10: To see if the town will vote to grant to Library Hall, LLC a lot line adjustment between Tax Map 239, Lot 68 (also known as the Stratford Hollow Pavilion lot) and Tax Map 239, Lot 69 (the Library Hall lot) so Library Hall may install water and sewage service. The adjustment shall transfer no more than 3,200 square feet to Library Hall, LLC.

Motion made to accept article as read: Ben Blodgett

Seconded: Tim Brooks

Discussion: Steve LaFrance (co-owner of Library Hall LLC) discusses the reasoning behind the lot line adjustment. Sandra Theberge asks how this will affect Old Home Day events. Wayne Labatte asks for remuneration or easement. Jamie Davis discussion issues regarding an "easement". Chris Caron asks if there is any impact regarding the Conservation Commission and Invasive Species. Michael Brauer asks regarding easement in the wording of the transfer. Tim Brooks applauds Steve and Benji for taking on Library Hall, that this should be a means of thanking

Verbal Aye/Nay vote.

Article 10 passed as read.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$250** for the Cohos Historical Society in support of the group's efforts and community events within the town.

Motion made to accept article as read: Charlie Goulet

Seconded by: Clayton Macdonald

Discussion: Tim Brooks asks for amendment to say "\$1000".

Motion to amend: Tim Brooks

Second: Otto Whelan

Amendment passes

Amended Article 11:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1000 for the Cohos Historical Society in support of the group's efforts and community events within the town.

Verbal Aye/Nay vote.

Article 11 with amendment passed as read with amendment.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Conservation Fund Account as authorized by RSA 36-A:5, with the fund to be held by the municipal Treasurer (RSA 41:29).

Motion made to accept article as read: Clayton Macdonald

Seconded: Chris Caron

Discussion: None

Verbal Aye/Nay vote.

Article 12 passed as read.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$6,000** in donations to the following groups: \$150, North Country Home Health & Hospice; \$150, Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital; \$150, Northern Human Services; \$1,600, Tri-County CAP (fuel assistance); \$2,900, Tri-County CAP Senior Meals (meals on wheels); \$150, Tri-County CAP North Country Transit (bus service); \$150, Big Brothers Big Sisters; \$150, CASA; \$150, Backpack Program; \$150, Service Link; \$150, The Rec Center; \$150, Stratford Old Home Day, Inc.

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Motion made to accept article as read: Jamie Davis

Seconded: Charlie Goulet

Discussion: Jennifer Caron states that Brother/sisters is in Stratford School. Tim Brooks responds the program is moving forward and improving.

Verbal Aye/Nay vote.

Article 13 passed as read.

***Article 14:** To see if the town will vote on the following: “Are you in favor of abolishing the Planning Board, as proposed by Petition of Voters of the Town of Stratford.”

Ballot vote.

Article 15: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting and to hear reports from any agents or committees heretofore chosen.

Discussion: Wendy McMann suggestion that next time we are asked to have everyone turn off/silence their cell phones for the duration of the meeting. Lory bacon asks if there have ever been suggestions to change town meeting/selectmen’s meeting to better accommodate the working residents. Tim brooks replies that yes, but to no avail and suggests that town meeting and School meeting be joined in the same meeting. Chucky Stinson asks for more volunteers for the Stratford FD.

Motion to adjourn: Claire Martineau

Seconded:

Verbal Aye/Nay vote.

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM by Moderator Sayen on 3/12/2019.

X

D. Josiah Barnes

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Thursday, April 11, 2019